

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [0111] with:

[0111] In certain aspects of the methods of the present invention, the tags on the nanocode include raman tags. Furthermore, these tags can include composite organic-inorganic nanoparticles (See U.S. Ser. No. 10/748,336, filed Dec. 29, 2003, entitled "Composite Organic-Inorganic Nanoparticles") (referred to herein as COIN nanoparticles or "COINs"). COINs are Raman-active probe constructs that include a core and a surface, wherein the core includes a metallic colloid including a first metal and a Raman-active organic compound. The COINs can further comprise a second metal different from the first metal, wherein the second metal forms a layer overlying the surface of the nanoparticle. The COINs can further comprise an organic layer overlying the metal layer, which organic layer comprises the probe. Suitable probes for attachment to the surface of the SERS-active nanoparticles for this embodiment include, without limitation, antibodies, antigens, polynucleotides, oligonucleotides, receptors, ligands, and the like. However, for these embodiments, COINs are typically attached to an oligonucleotide probe.